



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

From: Marcella R. Reyes

Date: February 4th, 2014

Re: 15th Annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference

CONCURRENT SESSION ONE: "Designing Resilient Farms & Homesteads" presented by Mark Angelini from Roots to Fruits, LLC. Key components recommended prior to start up were: 1) Evaluate your need 2) Evaluate Goals 3) Analyze & Assess 4) Conceptualize 5) Finalize 6) Implement.

Mark stressed the importance of "highest amount of work for longest amount of time with minimal effort". An example given was to allow your chickens free range on the farm and have them turn your compost pile while scratching/foraging.

Another area of focus was your "Water Shed" – the purpose here was to identify your water source, start at the highest point, slow the water down, spread it out over your crops, sink it into the ground as quickly as possible to avoid the possibility of evaporation & maximize its benefits.

Websites provided for additional information:

www.rootstofruits.biz

www.fruitnut.com

www.apiosinstitute.org

CONCURRENT SESSION TWO: "Make Your Produce Stand A Destination By Cultivating Multiple Mushroom Species" presented by Joe Krawczyk from Field & Forest Products.

A power point presentation was given showcasing the various types of mushrooms, including Shiitake & Oyster which can be grown successfully with some effort & also listed the methods in which they are grown.

Totem Method – Easy to do, logs produce more and last longer (downside – seasonal production).

An example of a mushroom that does well using the totem method is the "Maitake mushroom" aka: Hen/Chicken of the Woods. This species will fruit from buried oak rounds.

Drill & Fill Inoculation Method – This method requires more work and is often more difficult for novices to achieve results. The most commonly used logs for this method are mainly Maples ie; Sugar, Red or Silver.

The type of wood used is critical to its success; Shiitake mushrooms prefer White or Red Oak logs, as do Nameko. However, Nameko can also be grown using Sweet Black Cherry logs.

Key components given: 1) Choose living trees that are disease free, cut logs & inoculate preferably on the same day. 2) Inoculate at the proper rate. 3) Seal spawn into log to prevent drying out. It was strongly urged to do this with a group so several stations could be running at the same time. ***Have the proper set-up and use the proper tools.*** 4) Log management after inoculation.

Fruiting Log Management – Based on strain & market. Never underestimate the benefits of good snow cover, it will provide insulation to your inoculated logs.

Oyster mushrooms – Spring & Fall fruiting

Golden oyster – Summer fruiting

Polar White – Fall fruiting

CONCURRENT SESSION THREE: "Movements Toward Food Sovereignty In Native American Communities" presented by Dan Cornelius, Intertribal Agriculture Council.

Development of Michigan Partnerships promoting intertribal relations:

- Buying, Selling & Trading
- Training & Education
- Shared Management
- Aggregation
- Value Added Production
- Mobile Farmer's Market

Comprehensive Approach:

- Land Management Plan (land)
- Operational/Business Management Plan (People)
- Community ~ Health, Education, Culture

Dan informed us of an available program, known as "EQUIP" that will cost share/cover up to 90% the total cost for construction of high tunnels/hoop houses. Recently a tribal farming operation constructed hoop houses using Ironwood.

www.iacgreatlakes.com